

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 23, 32, 36, 37, 42, 43, 45, 58, 59 and 67 are amended. Claims 27, 28, 35, 44, 60 and 61 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-26, 29-34, 36-43, 45-59 and 62-67 remain in the application. In view of the following remarks amendments and/or remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be forwarded onto issuance.

The Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10, 13-18, 20, 23-28, 32-36, 45-55, 58-61, and 66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,401,051 to Merriam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,539,922 to Wang.

Claims 8-9, 11-12, 19, 21-22, 29-31, 37-44, 56-57, 62-65 and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over to Merriam in view of Wang and U.S. Patent No. 6,088,717 to Reed et al. (hereinafter "Reed").

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the time spent on the phone on November 8, 2005 discussing the prosecution in this case. During that discussion, Applicant and Examiner discussed the references cited in this case. While Applicant still maintains its position with respect to the lack of a *prima facie* case of obviousness being made out and reserves its right to argue so, Applicant has nonetheless amended the claims as indicated above in an effort to advance prosecution. These amendments have been made in the spirit of the discussion between Applicant and the Examiner. Specifically, Applicant and Examiner

1 discussed the notion that the references cited by the Examiner do not have the
2 features that now appear in the claims, as amended.


3 Applicant repeats, however, and wishes for the record to reflect that in
4 Applicant's view, the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness
5 with regard to these claims prior to amendment. As such, Applicant expressly
6 reserves its right to file one or more continuation applications to further prosecute
7 subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art.

8
9 **Conclusion**

10 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant
11 requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next
12 anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability,
13 Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of discussing an
14 appeal. In the event the Office maintains its present rejections, Applicant intends
15 to appeal those rejections.

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17 Respectfully Submitted,

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20 By: 
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